

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 17680 022058Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13 DODE-00 /083 W
-----057549 030236Z /64

R 022051Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2556
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17680

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, PINT, ET, CU, FR
SUBJECT: REACTION OF FRENCH LEFT TO CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
IN ERITREA

REF: STATE 129942

1. THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) HAS GIVEN LITTLE
ATTENTION TO THE ERITREAN SITUATION, PUBLISHING ONLY
TWO ARTICLES IN HUMANITE (APRIL 25 AND MAY 17). IN
ONLY ONE CASE IS CUBAN INVOLVEMENT EVEN MENTIONED AND
THAT IS AN INDEPENDENT REFERENCE TO A MENGISTU SPEECH
IN THE OGADEN WHERE HE "REVIEWED THE AID THAT
ETHIOPIA IS RECEIVING FROM THE USSR, CUBA, GDR AND
SOUTH YEMEN." (THERE IS ANOTHER PASSING REFERENCE TO
THE "INTERVENTION OF THE GREAT POWERS DIRECTLY IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED," FOLLOWED
IMMEDIATELY BY A REMARK ON THE "IMPERIALIST ROLE" IN
THE OGADEN CONFLICT.) OTHERWISE, THE ISSUE FOR THE
COMMUNISTS IS SOLELY ONE INVOLVING ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 17680 022058Z

FOR WHICH "A POLITICAL SOLUTION IS NECESSARY." THE
PCF NOTES THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IS OF A "POPULAR
CHARACTER" WITH "DEMOCRATIC OBJECTIVES," FIGHTING
AGAINST THE "ARBITRARY ANNEXATION" OF 1962 BY HAILE
SELASSIE. HUMANITE ALSO REPORTS THAT THE FEDERATION
WITH ETHIOPIA IN 1952 "WAS IMPOSED BY THE UNITED
NATIONS, UNDER AMERICAN LEADERSHIP, WITH THE SOCIALIST

COUNTRIES PROTESTING AND VOTING AGAINST."

2. THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS SAID EVEN LESS. AGREEING THAT ANNEXATION IN 1962 WAS AN "ARBITRARY ACT," THE PS CALLS FOR PEACE TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, "RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE OF ERITREA AND TRYING TO FIND THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA IN ACCORD WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS." IN A PRIVATE TALK WITH THE DCM, PS NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ROBERT PONTILLON REFUSED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT FRANCE HAS NO LEGITIMATE CONCERN IN ERITREA. SHOULD THERE BE AN ARMED INVASION WITH CUBAN SUPPORT, THE QUESTION WOULD BE ONE FOR THE AFRICAN STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO RESOLVE.

3. COMMENT: PARTICULARLY IN COMPARISON WITH FRENCH ACTIONS IN ZAIRE, THERE IS ONLY A LIMITED DEGREE OF INTEREST IN ERITREA. ALL PARTIES ON THE LEFT AGREE THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS REPRESENT A LEGITIMATE POPULAR ASPIRATION FOR INDEPENDENCE, BUT THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP OF CONDEMNING ETHIOPIAN ACTIVITY WILL PROBABLY NOT BE TAKEN. AS FOR THE CUBANS, THEY APPARENTLY DON'T EXIST FOR THE FRENCH LEFT, ESPECIALLY IN ERITREA. IN ANY CASE, ERITREA FALLS OUTSIDE THE FRENCH SPHERE OF INTEREST IN THE EYES OF THE PCF AND PS AND THEY ARE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 17680 022058Z

LIKELY TO ENGAGE THEMSELVES MUCH FURTHER THAN AT PRESENT.
HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, ERITREA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS17680
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0387
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806102/aaaadjxb.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 321d777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 129942
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2144039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION OF FRENCH LEFT TO CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, ET, CU, FR, PCF, FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/321d777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014